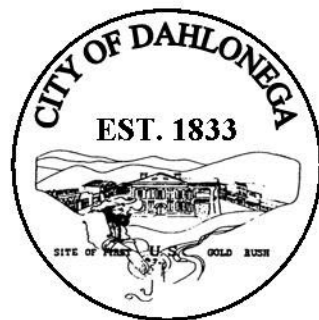


# City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

Vol.4, No. 3

November 2008



**Dahlonega a Preserve America Community**  
Dahlonega has done it again. The city has earned another great source of pride, this one in the form of a formal designation as one of the nation's newest *Preserve America Communities*. The designation, made by First Lady Laura Bush, recognizes Dahlonega for its ongoing commitment to protecting and celebrating its heritage, using its historic assets for economic development and encouraging appreciation of its local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. As a Preserve America community, Dahlonega will receive national recognition, including listing in a Web-based directory showcasing American heritage tourism destinations, inclusion in National Register of Historic Places Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching with Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service. The designation gives Dahlonega the right to use the prestigious Preserve America logo on all manner of promotional materials, and the city is eligible for Preserve America grants. The city will receive a Preserve America Community road sign to announce the honor to residents and visitors.

## Staff, Citizens Were the Real Story

Thanks to the cooperation of citizens, the hard work and dedication of city employees and more than its share of good luck, the city was able to skate by a potential crisis after a major breakdown occurred at its water plant August 29. The plant, which routinely operates near its 1.2 million-gallons-a-day permitted capacity to meet demand, was forced to operate at half capacity for two weeks while waiting for delivery of parts. A major fire or water main break would have been a disaster. The breakdown was quickly traced to improper construction materials used in the filter system when the plant was built 32 years ago. One of two filter tile plates caved in when the supports underneath rusted out, causing the filtering material to escape so the filter was unable to do its job. City manager Bill Lewis issued



a total ban on outdoor watering and urged water customers to conserve water—which they did. When the parts arrived, all five water plant operators worked double shifts and weekends, saving the city \$8,000 in contracted labor fees, to get the system fully operational and EPD approved as quickly as possible. Total cost of the repairs was \$58,000. "If the filter system had been properly constructed it would not have failed," Bill said, adding that this is an area that cannot be maintained and inspected. Recognizing the likelihood that the second filter tile plate could soon face the same fate as the first, the city is securing replacement parts to have on hand to reduce any downtime experienced from a second failure.

## City Receives Urban Forestry Grant

Dahlonega kicked off an urban forestry project this fall with the help of \$20,000 in cost-share funding through the Georgia Forestry Commission's Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. The project will enable the city to contract with a certified arborist to create a plan and supervise the routine maintenance of existing trees in the public rights of way within the

downtown area. The grant and the new project it will fund will complement the work of local volunteers from the Tree Commission and the Master Gardeners who work with Greg Sheppard and staff members who help the city protect its beautiful tree canopy.

## Dedication Celebrates Park's Reopening

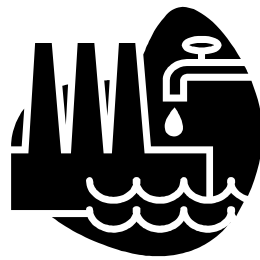
A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony in October marked a new beginning for Dahlonega's much-loved Hancock Park a block north of the Public Square. A year and a half after high winds leveled a centerpiece gazebo,



a brand new pavilion now stands, strategically tucked into a corner of the park, leaving plenty of room for grass and green space throughout the remainder of the property. The finished 23' X 40' covered structure with an uncovered pad in front is designed to function as a platform for festival programs, outdoor concerts and plays, art exhibits and other entertainment activities, as well as for small group gatherings. The lodge-look facility has restrooms and storage space, as well. The park's brick pavers and iron Maibaum tree sculpture, removed during the reconstruction of the park, will be replaced. The project took three months to build (much longer to conceive, plan and design) and was completed for about \$89,000, almost three-quarters of which was funded by the insurance settlement from the park's former gazebo.

## Waterworks: Getting Ready to Pour

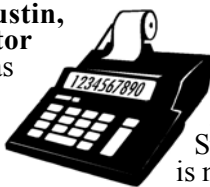
Work on Dahlonega's new water plant continues below grade, where approximately two miles of pipe and conduit that will run to and from the filters, high service pumps and chemical feed tanks are being installed. Once the pipe and conduit are in place, it will all be submerged under some 813 cubic yards of concrete that, over the course of 26 pours, will form the slab. Project managers estimate the steel frame for the 100' X 50' building itself will probably emerge from ground level next April.



## City of Dahlonge . . . continued from reverse side

### Meet Chris Austin, Finance Director

Janet Jarrard has been city clerk and finance director for the City of Dahlonge for as long as anyone can remember. And, says city manager Bill Lewis, she has served the city extraordinarily well in both capacities. But when the city carved off half of her job in August and gave it to Chris Austin, no one heard a word of protest from Janet. Both jobs have gotten more complex and more time consuming as the city has grown. The new division of labor allows for each area to get the full attention it warrants. Chris comes to the position well prepared. He earned an accounting degree



from Clayton College & State University, followed by a master's degree in accounting from Strayer University, and is now preparing to sit for the CPA exam. He has a decade of governmental accounting experience behind him, working for Clayton County for nine years and most recently for Mauldin & Jenkins for a year. Chris hails from McDonough and says he's looking forward to enjoying small town life and getting involved in the community, both of which he plans to do more of once his McDonough home sells and his wife Margarita and their charge, a whopping Great Dane named Grace, are able to join him here in Dahlonge. Welcome, Chris!

### City to Sell Hillcrest

For a city steeped in history like Dahlonge, it's easy to see the appeal of renovating a 100-plus-year-old home for use as a City Hall. That's exactly what the Dahlonge City Council intended to do with the purchase last summer of



Hillcrest, a beautiful hilltop home on North Grove Street that served for decades as a funeral home. But time, second thoughts and a consultant's recommendation ultimately steered the city away from that option, and the home and property are being sold. Sealed bids will be received until Dec. 4, 2008 at 12pm and will be opened at 2pm that same day at Dahlonge City Hall. Details on the terms of the invitation to bid are available from Bill Lewis, City Manager, 465 Riley Rd., Dahlonge, GA 30533.

### Now, That's Service!

From the window of his downtown business, Paul Hoffman could see pedestrians were challenged to cross busy South Chestatee Street safely as they made their way toward the Public Square, many trying to manage children and strollers. The problem had gotten worse with the opening of the new parking deck at North Georgia College & State University. The concerned citizen got on the agenda for the October city council meeting, where he planned to appeal to the city to install a crosswalk at the site as soon as possible. Everyone—including Paul Hoffman—was all smiles when his turn came to address the council. The city had beaten him to the punch and had already put in the crosswalk. "When we saw Mr. Hoffman's item on the agenda, we realized he had an excellent suggestion," said city manager Bill Lewis. "Since it was a safety issue, we took care of it immediately."



### Scheduled Rate Increases Necessary

As much as everyone hates to see them, scheduled rate increases for city water and sewer went into effect last month and are reflected on city utility bills due this month. The rate increases are mandated by the terms of the financing agreement for the new water treatment plant under construction now. The additional revenue resulting from the rate increase will help pay the bonds and loans associated with the facility, which is scheduled for completion in a little over a year. The rate increase for those using modest amounts of water will be nominal, while heavy water users' increases will be more significant. The city also has found it necessary to increase the cost of garbage pickup as the cost of providing that service has continued to rise. City officials noted the cost of fuel alone for the sanitation service last year increased nearly 400 percent, jumping from \$11,000 in fiscal year 2007 to \$53,000 in fiscal year 2008.



### Cordle Elected to State Board

Joel Cordle, director of Dahlonge's Downtown Development Authority and Better Hometown Program, has been elected this year to serve on the board of directors of the Georgia Downtown Association. The GDA is a non-profit association that promotes the economic redevelopment of Georgia's traditional downtowns. Joel also serves on the organization's Conference Planning and Production committee, where he recently helped with the annual Georgia Downtown Conference, held in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.



### How May We Be of Service?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

#### City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor  
Michael Clemons  
Guy Laboa  
Gerald Lord  
Sam Norton  
Terry Peters

Bill Lewis, City Manager

### Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at [www.cityofdahlonge.com](http://www.cityofdahlonge.com).

**City Council:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

**Planning/Zoning Commission:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

#### Historic Preservation

**Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

#### Dahlonge Downtown Development

**Authority:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:30am—City Hall

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